

Claims

1. An emitter tube suitable for an irrigation system, the tube being of
5 resiliently flexible material having a base inlet end adapted to be mounted
and a free outlet end adapted to be un-mounted, the arrangement being such
that, with liquid flowing at a sufficient rate through the emitter tube,
hydraulic forces exerted by the flowing liquid on the tube cause the outlet
end continuously to move about, further having a base section adjacent the
10 base inlet end and an end section downstream from the base section wherein
the end section is of greater flexibility than the base section.
2. The emitter tube according to claim 1 wherein the base section of the
emitter tube has a wall thickness which is greater than that of the end
15 section.
3. The emitter tube according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the wall thickness
of the emitter tube tapers from the base section to the free outlet end.
- 20 4. The emitter tube according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the wall thickness
of the emitter tube is stepped at one or more intervals along its length so as
progressively to reduce in wall thickness.

5. The emitter tube according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the outer diameter of the tube is substantially constant, while the inner passage of the tube tapers from a large diameter at the base inlet end of the emitter tube to a smaller diameter at the outlet end.
6. The emitter tube according to any one of claims 1 to 5 comprising a base section, and an end section and an intermediate section disposed between the base section and the end section, the arrangement being one wherein the intermediate section is of greater flexibility than the base section.
7. The emitter tube according to claim 6 wherein the end section is of greater flexibility than the intermediate section.
- 15 8. The emitter tube according to claim 6 or claim 7 wherein the intermediate section defines a waist portion of reduced diameter.
9. The emitter tube according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the inner diameter of the tube remains substantially constant while the outer profile of the tube reduces in wall thickness from the base section towards the outlet end.

10. The emitter tube according to any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein the emitter tube has a overall length of approximately 177mm, the outer diameter at the base inlet end is approximately 10mm, and the outer diameter at the outlet end is approximately 6mm.

11. The emitter tube according to claim 10 wherein the tube tapers evenly between the base inlet end and the outlet end.
12. The emitter tube according to claim 10 or claim 11 wherein the inner diameter of the emitter tube is approximately 5mm constantly along the length of the emitter tube.
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13. An emitter tube for an irrigation system substantially as herein described and exemplified with reference to the accompanying drawings.